

ENHANCED CHANNEL ACCESS MECHANISMS FOR AN HPNA NETWORK**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and a method is disclosed that provides that access to a communications medium that is suitable for allowing HPNA v2-formatted frames in a centralized manner. A list of sessions in enhanced STAs using the communications medium is maintained at a Media Control Station (MC STA). Each enhanced STA gains access to the communications medium in a centralized manner. A message is transmitted from the MC STA to a selected non-MC STA. The transmitted message is transmitted with a highest physical layer priority level available in a first HPNA v2-formatted frame. After the message is received at a non-MC STA, the non-MC STA transmits a reply message to the MC STA in response to the received message that is transmitted at the highest physical layer priority level available in a second HPNA v2-formatted frame.